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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Twice amended) A vacuum packaging appliance for evacuating a container, said vacuum packaging appliance comprising:

a base defining an upper support surface adapted to receive an open end of said container;

a lid operatively associated with said base, said lid and said base defining a vacuum chamber there between to receive said open end of said container;

at least one gasket surrounding said vacuum chamber for directly engaging said container such that said open end of said container is operatively associated with said vacuum chamber;

a vacuum source operatively associated with said vacuum chamber for selectively evacuating said vacuum chamber and said operatively associated container;

a vacuum latch chamber; and

a vacuum latch for restraining movement of said base relative to said lid when said vacuum packaging appliance is in use and said vacuum latch includes a latch gasket formed into said vacuum latch chamber such that said latch gasket forms a seal between said lid and said base when said lid and said base are engaged.

2. (original) A vacuum packaging appliance as recited in claim 1, wherein said vacuum latch includes a vacuum latch chamber.

3. (original) A vacuum packaging appliance as recited in claim 2, wherein said vacuum latch chamber is formed in said lid.

4. (original) A vacuum packaging appliance as recited in claim 2, wherein said vacuum latch chamber is formed in said base.

5. ~~15~~ Previously Cancelled

6. (Previously Amended) A vacuum packaging appliance as recited in claim 1, wherein said latch gasket is removable from said vacuum latch chamber.

7. (Previously Amended) A vacuum packaging appliance as recited in claim 1, wherein said vacuum latch is coupled with said vacuum source such that when said vacuum source is activated, said vacuum latch chamber is operatively associated with said vacuum source.